in a foreign country involves the extradition court and other authorities, which often prolongs the process.

(c) and (d) The Government constantly pursue extradition cases with the concerned foreign Governments and intervene at appropriate diplomatic level from time to time for early conclusion of extradition proceedings.

Agreement on sale of Uranium

†1462. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Australia has imposed condition of signature by India on NPT for the sale of Uranium turning down the earlier agreement regarding sale of uranium to India;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the steps taken by Government for receiving support of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG); and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for alternative arrangements for the supply of Uranium?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There has been no agreement with Australia regarding sale of Uranium to India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per the Joint Statement of July 18, 2005, the United States has committed to work with its friends and allies to adjust international regimes to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India. Government have also taken steps to seek the support of NSG countries. This has been done through briefings in NSG member country capitals and in New Delhi as welll as in dialogue with the NSG. The issue of an India-specific exemption to the NSG Guidelines has also been taken up at political levels during visits abroad as well as incoming visits. Once the NSG decides on an appropriate India-specific exemption, it would be possible to discuss alternative arrangements for supply of Uranium.

Blockade of Gaza Strip

1463. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the fact that Israel for a long period has made blockade of Gaza Strip;

(b) if so, the reasons for Government maintaining a silence over the Israel's occupation and blockade of Gaza Strip violating all international and humanitarian norms; and

(c) when is Government going to demand an end to the blockade of the Gaza Strip and call for an urgent Security Council session to discuss the issue?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi